

Message Text

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TAGS: PORG, UNSC, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: TEXT OF SECRETARY VANCE'S STATEMENT
IN SECURITY COUNCIL JULY 27.

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT DELIVERED BY
SECRETARY VANCE IN UN SECURITY COUNCIL JULY 27 IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOWING ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS ON NAMIBIA AND WALVIS
BAY. FIRST PART OF STATEMENT WAS MADE AS REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNITED STATES AND SECOND PART CONCERNING WALVIS
BAY ON BEHALF OF WESTERN FIVE GOVERNMENTS.

2. BEGIN TEXT OF STATEMENT.

THIS IS AN AUSPICIOUS OCCASION IN THE HISTORY OF THE
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UNITED NATIONS AND IN THE WORK OF THIS COUNCIL. AFTER
MONTHS OF PAINSTAKING DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS BY THE
REPRESENTATIVES OF MANY COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS,
INCLUDING THE UN ITSELF, WE ARE ON THE THRESHOLD OF A
PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT TO A PROBLEM NEARLY AS OLD AS THE
UNITED NATIONS ITSELF. THE ISSUE OF NAMIBIA WAS FIRST
RAISED IN THE UNITED NATIONS IN 1946, AND THE INABILITY
OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY TO COME TO AN INTERNATIONALLY-
ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM HAS, OVER THE YEARS,

POSED AN INCREASINGLY SERIOUS THREAT TO THE PEACE AND STABILITY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

TODAY, BY DINT OF HARD WORK AND GOOD WILL, WE HAVE FINALLY SET IN MOTION THE PROCESS BY WHICH NAMIBIA WILL ACHIEVE INDEPENDENCE PEACEFULLY AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 385. IN TERMS OF THE PURPOSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE HISTORY OF THIS PROBLEM, IT IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE THAT THIS PROCESS TAKE PLACE PEACEFULLY AND THROUGH DIRECT PARTICIPATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

I AM PLEASED THAT THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER WESTERN MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PLAY A ROLE IN WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED. IT WOULD BE INCORRECT TO SINGLE OUT ANY ONE COUNTRY OR GROUP OF COUNTRIES. MANY COUNTRIES HAVE MADE A CONTRIBUTION, AND IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT EACH CONTRIBUTION WAS IN ITS OWN WAY VITAL AND ESSENTIAL TO THE SUCCESS WHICH HAS BEEN ACHIEVED. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, THIS DIPLOMATIC ACHIEVEMENT BELONGS TO THE UNITED NATIONS ITSELF. IT HAS PROVIDED THE IMPETUS FOR A NAMIBIA SETTLEMENT, SERVED AS THE FOCAL POINT FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT, AND IS NOW PROVIDING THE MECHANISM FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION.
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SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM, WHOSE SUPPORT AND ADVICE HAS BEEN INVALUABLE THROUGHOUT THESE NEGOTIATIONS AND WHO WILL HAVE TO SEE THE PROCESS THROUGH ITS CONCLUSION, MERITS OUR PARTICULAR GRATITUDE.

TO THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THE SOUTH WEST AFRICA PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION, WE MUST EXPRESS OUR SENSE OF APPRECIATION FOR THEIR PURSUIT OF A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO NAMIBIA INDEPENDENCE AND THEIR WILLINGNESS TO JOIN WITH MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL IN WORKING DILIGENTLY TOWARD THAT GOAL. TO THE FRONT LINE AFRICAN STATES, WITHOUT WHOSE ASSISTANCE THIS CONCLUSION TO OUR EFFORTS WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE, WE MUST EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE AND OUR BELIEF THAT IN FACILITATING A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN NAMIBIA THEY HAVE MADE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION THE PEACE AND STABILITY OF AFRICA AS A WHOLE. WE ALSO WISH TO CALL ATTENTION TO THE POSITIVE ROLE OTHER PARTIES IN NAMIBIA HAVE PLAYED IN THIS ENDEAVOR.

IN MY GOVERNMENT'S VIEW, THE IMPORTANCE OF WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED HAS IMPLICATIONS WHICH GO FAR BEYOND THE NAMIBIA PROBLEM ITSELF. THE SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION OF THIS INTERNATIONAL ISSUE CAN ENCOURAGE SOLUTIONS FOR OTHER PRESSING PROBLEMS OF AFRICA, PARTICULARLY IN THE CASE OF RHODESIA. THERE THE SAME SPIRIT OF GOODWILL AND

COMPROMISE EXHIBITED BY THE PARTIES IN NAMIBIA COULD
CREATE A BASIS FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

BY OPENING A NEW CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF NAMIBIA,
WE ALSO OPEN A NEW CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED
NATIONS. THE WORLD BODY WILL NOW PROVIDE THE IMPETUS
FOR THE EMERGENCE OF A NEWLY INDEPENDENT NATION. BY
APPROVING THIS PROPOSAL FOR NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE, AT
ONE AND THE SAME TIME WE VOTE FOR AN INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA
AND WE TAKE A STEP TO STRENGTHEN THE PRESTIGE OF THE
UNITED NATIONS AND ITS ABILITY TO RESPOND EFFECTIVELY
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TO CRITICAL PROBLEMS WHEREVER THEY ARISE. LET US HOPE
THIS SUCCESS WILL SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE TO ENCOURAGE ALL
OF US TO JOIN IN SEEKING EQUALLY POSITIVE SOLUTIONS
TO OTHER CRITICAL PROBLEMS THAT CONFRONT THE WORLD
COMMUNITY.

MR. PRESIDENT, THAT CONCLUDES MY REMARKS ON BEHALF OF
THE UNITED STATES. I WOULD NOW LIKE TO MAKE AN ADDITIONAL
STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF CANADA, THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, FRANCE, THE UNITED KINGDOM
AND THE UNITED STATES ABOUT THE RESOLUTION ON
WALVIS BAY WHICH HAS BEEN ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE
SECURITY COUNCIL.

FROM THE BEGINNING OF OUR EFFORTS TO ASSIST IN THE
ACHIEVEMENT OF INDEPENDENCE BY NAMIBIA IN ACCORDANCE
WITH SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 385, OUR GOVERNMENTS
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HAVE BEEN CONSCIOUS OF THE STRONGLY HELD VIEWS BY THE
PARTIES CONCERNED ON THE STATUS OF WALVIS BAY. SINCE
THESE OPPOSING VIEWS APPEARED TO BE IRRECONCILABLE,
THE FIVE GOVERNMENTS DECIDED TO TAKE THE POSITION THAT
THEY WOULD NOT INCLUDE ANY PROVISIONS ON THIS
QUESTION IN THEIR PROPOSAL FOR A SETTLEMENT OF THE
NAMIBIAN SITUATION. CONSEQUENTLY, THE TERMS OF THE
PROPOSAL WHICH WE SUBMITTED TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON
10 APRIL CONTAIN NO MENTION OF WALVIS BAY.

THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE HAVE NO VIEWS CONCERNING THIS
QUESTION. WE ADOPTED OUR POSITION IN RECOGNITION OF THE
FACT THAT NO PROPOSAL ON WALVIS BAY APPEARED TO BE
CAPABLE OF ACCEPTANCE BY THE PARTIES. INDEED, WE
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WERE ACUTELY AWARE THAT AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE QUESTION
IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR PROPOSAL WOULD MAKE AGREEMENT ON
THE PROPOSAL IMPOSSIBLE.

THUS, IN OUR DISCUSSION WITH THE PARTIES WE DID NOT
SEEK TO INITIATE A SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE.
WE EMPHASIZED TO ALL CONCERNED OUR BELIEF THAT A
DISCUSSION OF THE LEGAL STATUS OF WALVIS BAY WOULD NOT
BE USEFUL AND COULD ONLY CONTINUE TO HAMPER A RESOLUTION
OF THE THIRTY-YEAR CONTROVERSY OVER NAMIBIA. INSTEAD,
WE STATED ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS THAT THE QUESTION
OF WALVIS BAY WOULD HAVE TO BE THE SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATIONS
BETWEEN THE PARTIES CONCERNED BECAUSE WE RECOGNIZE, AND
WE BELIEVE ALL PARTIES RECOGNIZE, THAT WALVIS BAY IS
CRITICAL TO THE FUTURE OF NAMIBIA. IN THIS CONNECTION,
I WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE WHAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF CANADA SAID WHEN HE SPOKE IN THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY DURING THE NINTH SPECIAL SESSION ON
APRIL 25TH.

MR. JAMIESON SAID, AND I QUOTE:

"THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WILL HAVE NOTED THAT WE HAVE
OMITTED FROM OUR PROPOSAL THE DIFFICULT QUESTION OF
WALVIS BAY FOR THE REASON THAT WE SEE NO WAY OF SETTLING
THE QUESTION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS.
WE FEEL STRONGLY, HOWEVER, THAT THE ISSUE SHOULD NOT
DELAY THE LONG-SOUGHT-AFTER INDEPENDENCE OF NAMIBIA.
WE CONSIDER
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